

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-16 are rejected. In response, claims 1 and 13 are amended to clarify the features of the invention. More specifically, claims 1 and 13 are amended to clarify that the input unit selects a predetermined buffer time from a plurality of allocated predetermined buffer times for the temporary storage in the buffer area of the storage device and where the temporary allocated buffer area corresponds to the selected allocated buffer time.

In view of these amendment and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The Rejection

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0118321 to Sparrell et al. Sparrell et al. is cited for disclosing video apparatus and is capable of storing a video signal for temporary storage and storing the video signal in a long term storage unit.

Sparrell et al. does not specifically disclose a video recording/reproducing apparatus and method where an input unit enables the selection of a predetermined buffer time from a plurality of allocated predetermined buffer times and outputting a command corresponding to the allocated predetermined buffer time selected by the user. Sparrell et al. also does not disclose this feature in combination with a main control unit for temporarily storing a received video signal in a temporary allocated buffer area corresponding to the selected allocated buffer time in the storage device. Thus, the claims are not anticipated.

In the present invention, the apparatus and method enable the user to select a buffer time of a predetermined length from a plurality of allocated predetermined buffer times. Thus, the user is able to select the allocated time for the temporary storage from a menu of the available storage buffer times. The image signals are then stored in the buffer area of the storage device

based on the selected buffer time. Sparrell et al. stores the image signals in the buffer for the duration of time corresponding to the playback time of the program of interest. The storage times of Sparrell et al are based on the information provided by the program. The Action refers to paragraph 0019 as disclosing the step of selecting the buffer time. This passage refers to a program guide source adapted to provide program length information and a buffer memory established and sized to match that determined by the converted. The buffer memory size matches the size needed to record the program of interest based on the program guide source.

Sparrell et al. discloses a system for digital video recording for live pause recording any playback that does not use the small circular buffer as in the prior devices. Sparrell et al. selects a program guide source as disclosed in paragraph 0019 to provide the program length information about the program of interest. The system then converts the program length information into a corresponding buffer memory size. In the device of Sparrell et al., the video program determines the buffer size according to information provided by the system.

The present invention as disclosed on page 10 of the specification enables the user to select a buffer time available from a plurality of possible buffer times from a buffer time menu which is displayed together with the main menu and sub-menu. Sparrell et al. does not disclose this feature.

Sparrell et al. also does not disclose a main control unit for temporarily storing a video signal in the allocated buffer area in the storage device corresponding to the selected buffer time selected by the user when a command for temporary storage is received from the input unit and for recording the temporary video signal of the selected buffer time in a long term storage area of the storage device according to a set recording format as in claims 1 and 13. Therefore, these claims are not anticipated.

Claims 2-12 and 14-16 are also allowable as depending from claims 1 or 13 and for reciting additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in the art of

record. Sparrell et al. does not disclose setting a new buffer area in a non-recording area of the storage device upon receiving a signal for long term recording and recording attribute information of the long term recorded video signal in an attribute information recording area as in claim 2, in combination with the features of claim 1. Sparrell et al. further fails to disclose incorporating the remaining storage space from a selected buffer time selected by the user into a non-recording area of the main control unit as in claim 3 in combination with the features of claim 1.

Sparrell et al. does not disclose a main control unit, copying and recording the temporary stored video signal in a non-recording area of the storage device and deleting the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area as in claim 4, in combination with the features of claim 1. The passages of Sparrell et al. referred to in the Action do not specifically disclose these features. In particular, the passages do not disclose copying the temporary video signal in the buffer area and recording in a non-recording area of the storage device in combination with the features of claim 1. Sparrell et al. discloses that the buffer memory is used to initially store the program and is then used as a long term memory. Sparrell et al. does not specifically disclose copying the temporary video signal in the buffer area and storing or recording in a non-recording area as in claim 4.

Sparrell et al. further does not disclose the attribute information as in claim 5, receiving command signal for deleting video temporarily stored in the buffer area having the selected predetermined buffer time as in claim 6, an interface unit mounted in a main body to receive the command transmitted from the input unit as in claim 7, the input unit including an external input as in claim 8, the external unit being a remote controller as in claim 9, the apparatus including an interface unit mounted in a main body and including a light receiving part for receiving infrared signals as in claim 10, the specified video signal source of claim 11, or the storage device including a hard disk drive as in claim 12, in combination with the features of claim 1.

Claims 14-16 depending from claim 13 are also allowable as depending from allowable claim 13 and reciting the additional features of the invention. In particular, Sparrell et al. does not disclose a storage device control method where a new buffer area in a non-recording area of the storage device is set and recording the temporarily stored video signal of a previous buffer area of the predetermined buffer time in the long term basis and recording attribute information in a set attribute information recording area as in claim 14, copying and recording the temporary stored video signal from the buffer area in the recording area of the storage device and deleting the temporary stored video signal as in claim 15 or the input unit being external of the video recording apparatus as in claim 16, in combination with the method steps of claim 13.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, the claims are submitted to be allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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